

Amendments to the Drawings:

Fig. 1 has been amended to include the label "PRIOR ART" as requested. The amendment to Fig. 1 is shown on attached copy of Fig. 1. Applicants are further submitting a substitute formal drawing of Fig. 1 with the label as noted above.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9 and 11-13 are pending the present application. Claims 4, 8, 10 and 14 have been canceled by the present amendment. The drawings were objected to for the reasons noted on page 2, paragraph 2 of the Office Action. Claims 1, 4, 5, 9-12 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Verlinden et al. (RD 804110) in view of Shiga '225 or Klosterboer et al. '208. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being patentable over Verlinden et al. in view of Shiga '225 or Klosterboer et al. '208, further in view of Ogiso '424. Claims 3, 6-8 and 13 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Verlinden et al. in view of Shiga '225 or Klosterboer et al. '208 and Ogiso '424, further in view of the DD118144 reference.

Referring to the objection to the drawings as noted on page 2, paragraph 2 of the Office Action, Fig. 1 has been amended to include the label "PRIOR ART" as requested. The amendment to Fig. 1 is shown on the attached copy of Fig. 1. Applicants are further submitting a substitute formal drawing of Fig. 1 with the label as noted above.

Referring to the rejection of claims 1, 4, 5, 9-12 and 14 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Verlinden et al. in view of Shiga or Klosterboer et al., the applied references are not believed to anticipate or make obvious the specific features required by the claimed invention.

More specifically, claim 1 relates to a photofinishing solution supply cartridge that comprises an outer container and one developer solution container provided within the outer container. The developer solution container of claim 1 holds a single-part developer and comprises at least two developer container valves for fluid communication with a photographic processor. Claim 1 further requires that the cartridge comprises a stabilizer solution container provided in the outer container, and that a surface of the developer solution container that includes the two developer container valves has a downward incline in a direction toward each of the two developer container valves to permit a complete draining of the single-part developer from the developer solution container. This feature of the invention is described in the specification and illustrated in, for example, Figs. 3 and 6 of the application. As noted in the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action, the Verlinden et al. reference does not disclose using an inclined surface to promote complete drainage of the processing solution from the cartridge. The Office Action sets forth that this practice is commonly used in many fields and that one having

ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the cartridges to improve drainage. Applicants note that the cartridges as disclosed in Verlinden et al. are flexible or collapsible cartridges that can shrink as liquids are discharged and expand as cartridges are filled. There is no showing or suggestion in Verlinden et al. of having the combination of a developer solution container that holds a single-part developer and has a surface that defines a downward incline in a direction toward each of the developer container valves to permit a complete draining of single part developer from the developer solution container. More specifically, the reference to Verlinden et al. which illustrates collapsible cartridges does not provide a showing or suggestion for the inclined draining surface as required by claim 1. Further it is not clear from the Office Action if Official Notice is being taken as to whether it would have been obvious to provide this feature in Verlinden et al., and how one of ordinary skill in the art would have modified Verlinden et al. to include such a feature.

Both Shiga and Klosterboer et al. do not correct the deficiencies of Verlinden et al. with respect to the claimed features of the invention. Therefore, even if combinable, the combination of Verlinden et al., Shiga and Klosterboer et al. would not show or suggest the features of claim 1. Also, absent Applicants' disclosure, one having ordinary skill in the art would not have combined these references to achieve the invention as set forth in claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 5 depends from claim 1 and sets forth additional unique features of the present invention which are also not believed to be shown or suggested in the applied references. Therefore, this claim is also allowable.

Claim 9 relates to a photofinishing solution supply cartridge that includes an outer container and a single developer solution container provided within the outer container. The developer solution container is adapted to hold a single-part developer therein and comprises two developer container valves. Claim 9 further requires that the single developer solution container is reusable and comprises a supply opening to permit a refilling of the single developer solution container with single-part developer; with the supply opening being located on a surface of the single developer solution container that does not include the two developer container valves.

The features as set forth in claim 9 are shown, for example, in Fig. 2 (opening 22) and described in the paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7 of the specification. More specifically, as described in this section of the specification, through the use of opening 22, a user can simply refill developer container 12 with new single-part developer concentrate through opening 22, without having to remove cartridge 100 from processor 20. With reference to Fig. 2, this is due to

the fact that the opening 22 is provided on a surface that does not include valves 12a, 12b, and thus, the container can be refilled without having to remove cartridge 100 from the processor. This feature of the invention is not shown or suggested in any of the applied references. More specifically, Verlinden et al. which describes a refilling process with flexible cartridges does not show or suggest the specific reusable container and supply opening as required by claim 9. Shiga and Klosterboer et al. do not correct the deficiencies of Verlinden et al. with respect to the claimed invention.

Therefore, claim 9 is also believed to be allowable over the applied references, whether considered individually or in combination.

Claim 11 relates to a photofinishing arrangement and like claim 9 requires that the single developer solution container be reusable and comprise a supply opening to permit a refilling of the single developer solution container with single-part developer. The applied references are not believed to show or suggest the combination of a developer solution container that holds a single-part developer, comprises two developer container valves, and further has a supply opening to permit a refilling of the developer solution container with single-part developer.

Accordingly, claim 11 is also believed to be allowable.

Claims 12-13 depend from claim 11 and set forth further unique features of the present invention which are also not believed to be shown or suggested in the applied references. More specifically, none of the references show or suggest a single-part developer as claimed, in combination with a container comprising two valves that is reusable and comprises a supply opening to permit a refilling with single-part developer.

Accordingly, Verlinden et al., Shiga and Klosterboer et al., whether considered individually or in combination, are not believed to anticipate or make obvious the specific features required by claims 1, 5, 9 and 11-12.

Referring to the rejection of claim 2 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Verlinden et al. in view of Shiga or Klosterboer et al, further in view of Ogiso, claim 2 depends from claim 1 and sets forth additional unique features of the photofinishing supply cartridge of claim 1. The references to Verlinden et al., Shiga and Klosterboer et al, and their applicability to the claimed invention have been discussed above. The reference to Ogiso which was cited to show the use of sensors in a container does not correct the deficiencies of the above references with respect to the claimed invention. More specifically, the applied references, whether considered individually or in combination, are not believed to show or suggest the features of claim 2 in combination with claim 1 from which claim 2 depends. As noted above, Claim 1 requires a developer

solution container that contains a single-part developer and a surface that has a downward incline in the direction toward developer container valves.

Accordingly, claim 2 is believed to be allowable over the applied references.

Referring to the rejection of claims 3, 6-8 and 13 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Verlinden et al. in view of Shiga or Klosterboer et al. or Ogiso, further in view of DD 118144, claim 3 depends from claim 1 and sets forth additional unique features of the present invention with respect to the application of solution during a processing cycle. The references to Ogiso and DD 118144 do not correct the deficiencies of the references to Verlinden et al., Shiga and Klosterboer et al. with respect to the claimed invention. Therefore, these references, whether considered individually or in combination, are not believed to show or suggest the features of claim 3 and claim 1 from which claim 3 depends.

Claim 6 relates to a method of processing photographic material which comprises the steps of fluidly associating a solution supply cartridge with a processor, wherein the solution supply cartridge comprises one developer container with at least two valves, and the developer container holds a single-part developer therein; supplying the single-part developer to the photographic processor during a processing cycle, wherein the single part developer is simultaneously supplied through the two valves; and refilling the developer container through a supply opening on the developer container when the developer container is empty. As further required by claim 6, the refilling step is performed while the solution supply cartridge is associated with the photographic processor. As discussed above, this feature of the invention is shown and described, for example, in the paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7 of the present application. None of the applied references show or suggest the specific combination of steps required by claim 6, including the step of refilling a developer container through a supply opening on the container while the solution supply cartridge is associated with the processor. Accordingly, claim 6 is believed to be allowable over the applied references, whether considered individually or in combination.

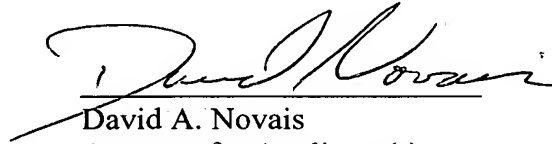
Claim 7 depends from claim 6, while claim 13 depends from claim 11. Each of those claims set forth additional unique features of the present invention which are also not believed to be shown or suggested in the applied references. Therefore, these claims are also believed to be allowable.

Accordingly, Verlinden et al., Shiga, Klosterboer et al., Ogiso and DD 118144, whether considered individually or in combination, are not believed

to anticipate or make obvious the features required by claims 1-3, 5-7, 9 and 11-13.

In view of the foregoing comments, it is submitted that the inventions defined by each of claims 1-3, 5-7, 9 and 11-13 are patentable, and a favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David A. Novais", is written over a horizontal line.

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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.

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Appl. No. 10/722,249
Amdt. Dated July 27, 2005
Reply to the Office Action of May 2, 2005
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

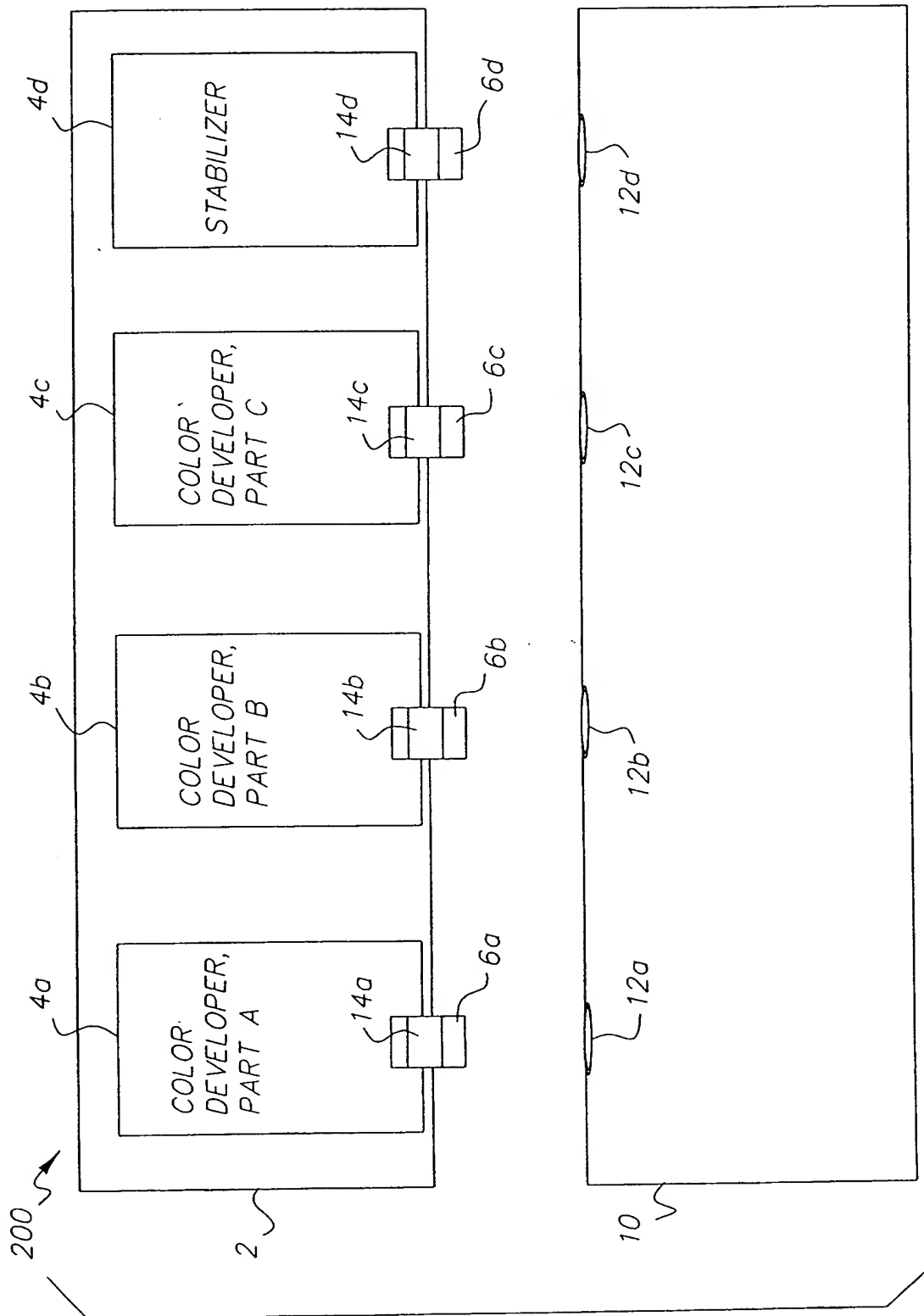


FIG. 1
PRIOR ART